



Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor
Janet Olszewski, Director




JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR



MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

May 26, 2006

TO: All Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents, Nonpublic School Directors, and Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Mike Flanagan, Superintendent of Public Instruction,
Michigan Department of Education
Janet Olszewski, Director, 
Michigan Department of Community Health



SUBJECT: Notification of Meningococcal Meningitis Disease and Vaccine

In November 2005, the Governor enacted legislation (2005 PA 240, MCL 380.1177a) related to Meningococcal Meningitis. The law requires the Michigan Department of Education, in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Community Health, to develop information for Michigan schools to notify families of children attending schools in grades 6, 9, and 12 about the risk and prevention of Meningococcal Meningitis. Local school notification shall include the following:

- Causes and symptoms
- How it is spread
- Sources to obtain information about this contagious disease
- Sources to obtain vaccinations to prevent the disease

The Michigan Department of Education is charged with supplying the information for local boards of school districts or board of directors of public school academies to notify families with 6th, 9th, and 12th grade students during the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year. The information has been compiled by both the Michigan Departments of Education and Community Health.

The Meningococcal Meningitis related documents are available at both departments' websites under "Meningococcal Meningitis". For an on-line version of the notification materials, go to www.michigan.gov/mde. To view this legislation, click the following hyperlink:

[http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(si:ull45kqnpb5jruwieapmr\)/documents/mcl/pdf/mcl-380-1177a.pdf](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(si:ull45kqnpb5jruwieapmr)/documents/mcl/pdf/mcl-380-1177a.pdf).

If you have any questions about these documents or the law, please contact Leisa Gallagher, Grants Coordination and School Support, Coordinated School Health and Safety Programs, at (517) 241-2293 or by e-mail at gallagherl@michigan.gov.

Protect your child from serious diseases that can affect preteens and adolescents

Preteens and adolescents need vaccines to protect them from serious illnesses. Immunizations begin at birth and continue throughout life. These shots are an important step to maintain your child's health.

Meningococcal disease (meningitis) is a serious illness caused by bacteria which infects the blood or tissues around the brain and spinal cord.

- This germ can be spread from person to person by close contact.
- Common symptoms include a fever, rash, headache or stiff neck.
- It can lead to brain damage, disability and death.

Meningococcal vaccine (MCV4) can protect children and adolescents from this disease.

- This vaccine is usually given to 11-12 year olds (6th graders)*.
- Because it is a newer vaccine, older adolescents may not have received it. Teens that have not had meningococcal vaccine should be given a dose.
- Ask your child's health care provider if he/she needs meningococcal vaccine.
- To obtain meningococcal vaccine and other immunizations for your child, see your child's health care provider or your local health department.
- For more information about meningococcal vaccine or other immunizations talk to your child's health care provider or call your local health department. Information is also available at Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website: www.cdc.gov/nip

There are vaccines that can protect preteens and adolescents from other serious diseases. 6th graders & teens need the following shots if they have not already received them:

- 1 dose of meningococcal vaccine (MCV4)*
- 1 dose of tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis vaccine (Tdap)
- 3 doses of hepatitis B vaccine (hep B)
- 2 doses of measles mumps and rubella vaccine (MMR)
- 1 or 2 doses of chickenpox vaccine (var), if they did not have the disease
- At least 3 doses of polio vaccine (IPV or OPV)
- Some children & teens may need hepatitis A and flu vaccine

* As of May 19, 2006, vaccination of children 11-12 years of age is currently deferred due to limited supply of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4). High school freshmen and college freshmen living in a dormitory, who have not previously received MCV4 may be vaccinated during this time of limited supply.

Act No. 240
Public Acts of 2005
Approved by the Governor
November 22, 2005
Filed with the Secretary of State
November 22, 2005
EFFECTIVE DATE: November 22, 2005

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
93RD LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2005**

Introduced by Rep. Mortimer

ENROLLED HOUSE BILL No. 4726

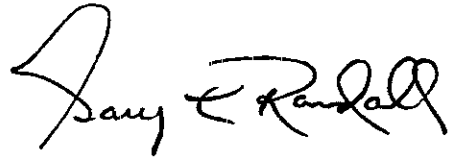
AN ACT to amend 1976 PA 451, entitled "An act to provide a system of public instruction and elementary and secondary schools; to revise, consolidate, and clarify the laws relating to elementary and secondary education; to provide for the organization, regulation, and maintenance of schools, school districts, public school academies, intermediate school districts, and other public school entities; to prescribe rights, powers, duties, and privileges of schools, school districts, public school academies, intermediate school districts, and other public school entities; to provide for the regulation of school teachers and certain other school employees; to provide for school elections and to prescribe powers and duties with respect thereto; to provide for the levy and collection of taxes; to provide for the borrowing of money and issuance of bonds and other evidences of indebtedness; to establish a fund and provide for expenditures from that fund; to provide for and prescribe the powers and duties of certain state departments, the state board of education, and certain other boards and officials; to provide for licensure of boarding schools; to prescribe penalties; and to repeal acts and parts of acts," (MCL 380.1 to 380.1852) by adding section 1177a.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

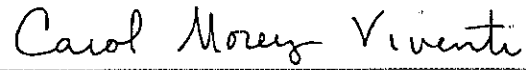
Sec. 1177a. (1) If, at the beginning of a school year, the board of a school district or board of directors of a public school academy provides information on immunizations, infectious disease, medications, or other school health issues to parents and guardians of pupils in at least grades 6, 9, and 12, then with that information the board or board of directors shall include information about meningococcal meningitis and the vaccine for meningococcal meningitis. The information shall include at least the causes and symptoms of meningococcal meningitis, how it is spread, and sources where parents and guardians may obtain additional information about meningococcal meningitis and may obtain vaccination of a child against meningococcal meningitis.

(2) The department, in cooperation with the department of community health, shall develop and make available to school districts, public school academies, and nonpublic schools information that meets the requirements of subsection (1). The department shall do this in the manner the department determines to be the most cost-effective and programmatically effective, which shall include at least posting the information on its website.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.



Clerk of the House of Representatives



Secretary of the Senate

Approved _____

Governor